Medical Training and Education Opportunities in China

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China has the world’s largest medical education system, but it faces challenges

- China has the **world’s largest medical education system**, and more than 144,000 students graduate from 268 institutions per year.
- However, many medical graduates in China **do not enter into professional practice**, but pursue employment in other areas such as industry.
- The **curriculum system is still narrowly focussed** on biomedicine, medical technology, and clinical practice.
- Pedagogic methods are **rigid**: mostly teacher-controlled didactic lecturing, which requires rote memorisation by students.
- **Huge class sizes** (ave. 548 graduates per school) limit the application of teaching innovations such as problem-based learning, and restrict interactions between faculties and students.
- All clinical training being **confined to hospitals**, ignoring community clinics, home-based care, or rural practice settings.
There is a significant need in China for more, well trained medical professionals...

- **Doctors**
  - The health workforce in China has 1.9 doctors per 1000 population compared to the UK at 2.8 and the USA at 2.4
  - In 2011, there were only about 80,000 general practitioners; that number is expected to increase to somewhere between 300,000 and 400,000 by 2020

- **Nurses**
  - Chinese nurses at 1.9 per 1000 are only a fifth the density of nurses in the UK and USA
  - China has 1.65 million nurses. However, the country needs 5 million more nurses to meet the global standard
…As well as other healthcare staff

- **Professionals Allied to Medicine**: Physios, Pharmacists, Prosthetists, Radiographers, Paramedics etc
- **Elderly care workers** – It is estimated that China will need to train 8 million more care workers to deal with the ageing population
- **Mental health workers** – China only has 1 psychiatrist per 86,000 people (1/12 that of the USA)
- **Traditional Chinese Medicine** - 20,000 additional professionals needed
- Healthcare managers
- Healthcare planners
- Other support staff
Why China looks to the UK for E&T

• We have prestigious and cutting-edge clinical training facilities produce world-class doctors, nurses and the full range of allied health professionals, medical scientists and managers.
• The UK is home to four of the world’s top ten universities for clinical, pre-clinical and health subjects
• The UK has:
  • 32 medical schools
  • 70+ universities providing nursing education
  • 80+ universities offering training for allied health professionals
  • 140+ universities and colleges offering health management courses
  • 14 Royal Colleges and five faculties which set and monitor the standards of postgraduate medical training.
  • Many more private businesses that can deliver a wide range of clinical and non-clinical courses
Typical requests from Chinese partners

• Chinese healthcare professionals/students to visit the UK for every aspect of medical, nursing and allied health professional training
  • Training for accredited qualifications
  • Short-term observerships
  • Specific skill or short-course training
  • Educational exchanges and fellowships

• Building training capacity in China:
  • Designing and delivering training facilities
  • ‘Training the trainers’ and online programmes
  • Whole-system training packages – for example for a new hospital or new type of service

• Remote service delivery:
  • Use internet technology to provide remote services from the UK, such as multi-disciplinary reviews, remote diagnostics, screening and distance learning
Case study: Sinolink and Zhejiang Health Bureau

- Sinolink have developed working partnerships alongside leading healthcare facilities in the UK:
  - Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust
  - Royal Marsden Hospital
  - The Heart Hospital, London
  - Royal Brompton NHS Foundation Trust
  - North Bristol NHS Trust
  - University Hospital Bristol NHS Foundation Trust
- Sinolink delivers a range of observership and study tours to both Chinese and UK nationals
- Huge increase of exchange professionals from UK and China in recent years
- Sinolink’s healthcare programmes have seen over 300 professionals within 5 years attend
What are the challenges and how to overcome them?

- The numbers of people that need to be trained are often over and above what any one UK organisation can service
  - UK organisations can come together to form consortia that can deal with the large numbers and/or offer a wider range of training courses
- The Chinese partners often aren’t specific about what training they need
  - UK organisations can provide marketing material and course options with a choice of delivery options to Chinese partners to shape their thinking
- The price that the Chinese partner is willing to pay is often not at the level that UK organisations are used to
  - UK organisations can use innovative models of delivery and lower the cost in order to take advantage of economies of scale
- Chinese partners are very keen that the training programmes are ‘localised’
  - UK partners need to ensure that the language is both literally and culturally translated and the course content is reflective of actual conditions in China
Some of the organisations currently collaborating with China in E&T
A large private investment company

HEALTHCARE TRAINING SCHOOLS IN CHINA
A large private investment company

• China Top 100 Real Estate Development company
• Education, culture, leisure industries
• Based in Shanghai
• Facilitates overseas study for Chinese customers
• Provides basic and vocational courses in China
• Seeks to enter healthcare education market in China
• Wants international partners
What the customer wants

AIM

- High end international education product
- UK qualification
- Delivered in China
- Scope to expand to multiple schools
The commercial opportunity for the UK

Project owner
• Provides upfront investment and facilities
• Ongoing funding model to be determined with partner

UK provider role
• Co-develop strategy
• Needs assessment, feasibility study and commercial model
• Programme management of set-up
• Curriculum design
• Training delivery
• Operational management
• Accreditation provision
Training and Education

BEIJING HEALTH BUREAU
Organisation and Project Overview

• Beijing as the capital of China, has a population of 21 million, served by over 10,000 healthcare facilities including 80 tertiary hospitals

• Over 300,000 healthcare workers, including nearly 90,000 doctors

• Previous collaboration with UK:
  • Birmingham University engaged with Beijing Community Health
  • Cambridge University training paediatricians
  • Disease prevention & control in BJ Olympics

• Strong training needs in primary care and elderly care
Training scale

- 30 young doctors /yr
- 30 experienced doctors / yr
- doctors from new-emerging subjects
- clinical researchers

350 in 5 years
Training model

30 young doctors /yr
- Participate in clinical training as House Officers 20
- Length: 1 year

30 experienced doctors / yr
- Participate in clinical training, bed-side teaching
- Length: 3 months

Doctors from new-emerging subjects
- Participate in clinical work and research
- Length: 1 year

Clinical researchers
- Participate in research projects
- Length: 6 months - 1 year